

**Report on the Burchell's Zebra (*Equus burchelli*) and  
Red Hartebeest (*Sigmoceros lichtensteinii*) total road count  
done on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2014**

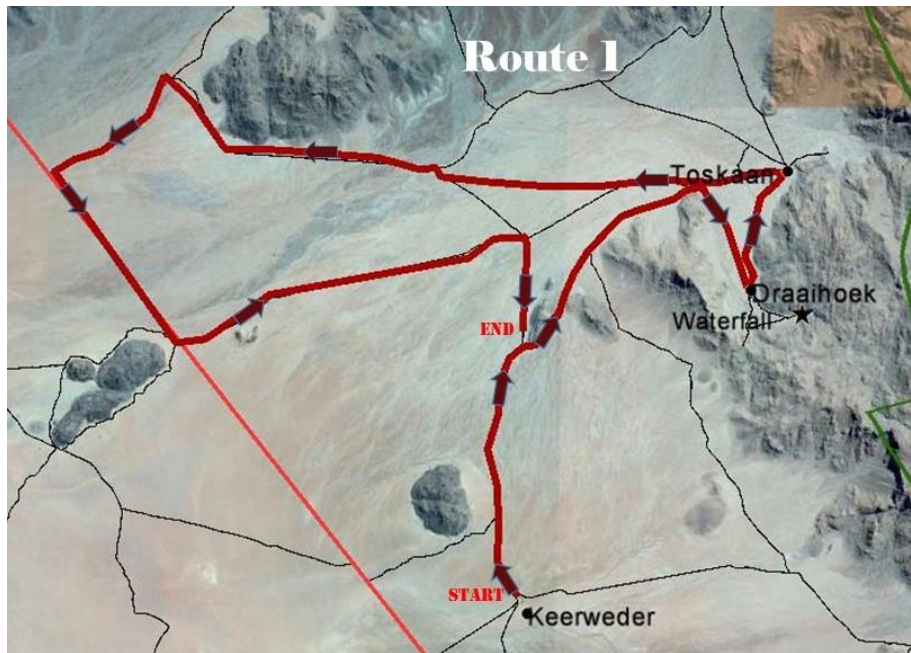


Report compiled by Quintin Hartung – NRNR Control Warden

## Introduction

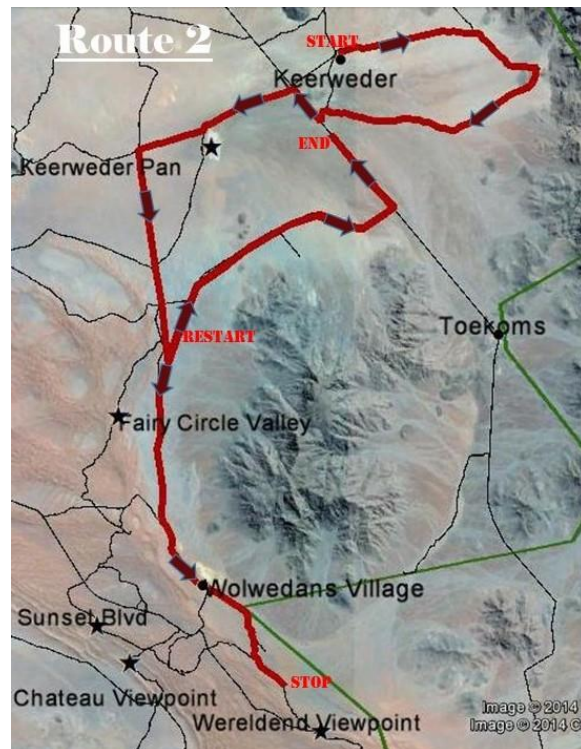
On 24 June 2014 we conducted a total count of the Burchell's Zebra and Red Hartebeest in of the Reserve. To get the total count we drove on designated routes, throughout the northern part of the Reserve, where the B. Zebra and Hartebeest herds are normally seen, and counted all the B. Zebra and Hartebeest seen. The count was divided into three routes, all starting from Keerweder at the same time.

## Routes



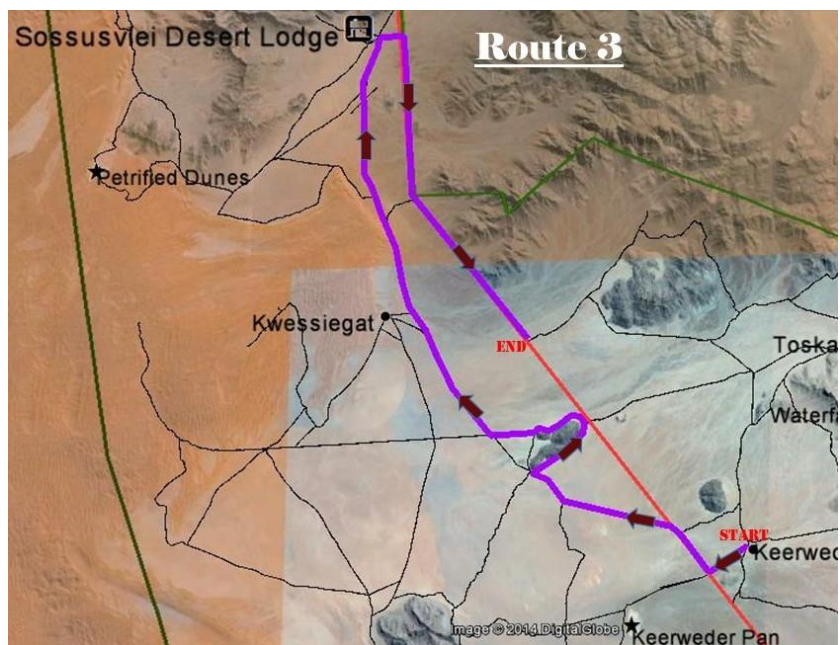
Participants:

- Nils Odendaal
- Gustaf Hanghome
- Abraham Tsaobeb
- Willem Rooi



Participants:

- Lukas Mbangi
- Helunga Ngwapia
- Eben Tsaobeb
- Linfred Hartung
- Vanessa Hartung



Participants:

- Vicky Chinhoi
- Quintin Hartung
- Peter Nuugonya
- Clair Mills
- Michael Mills
- Pat Hanrahan

## Results

The results (total counted) are shown in the tables below:

Burchell's Zebra and Red Hartebeest count												
	Route 1				Route 2				Route 3			
	B. Zebra		R. Hartebeest		B. Zebra		R. Hartebeest		B. Zebra		R. Hartebeest	
Groups	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv	Ad	Juv
1	7		6	3	18		4		6		23	
2	10	4			8		4		2		5	
3	10				7		89	2	7		2	
4	5				2		2		2		1	
5	4				8				4		17	3
6	2				1				6			
7	4				17				4			
8	6				13	4			6			
9	11				5				8	2		
10					17	2			4			
11					21				15			
12					4				5	1		
13					5	2			6			
14					13				21			
15					1							
16					8							
17					13							
18					8							
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3</b>

Total			
B. Zebra		R. Hartebeest	
Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles
324	*15	153	*8
**28			
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>161</b>	

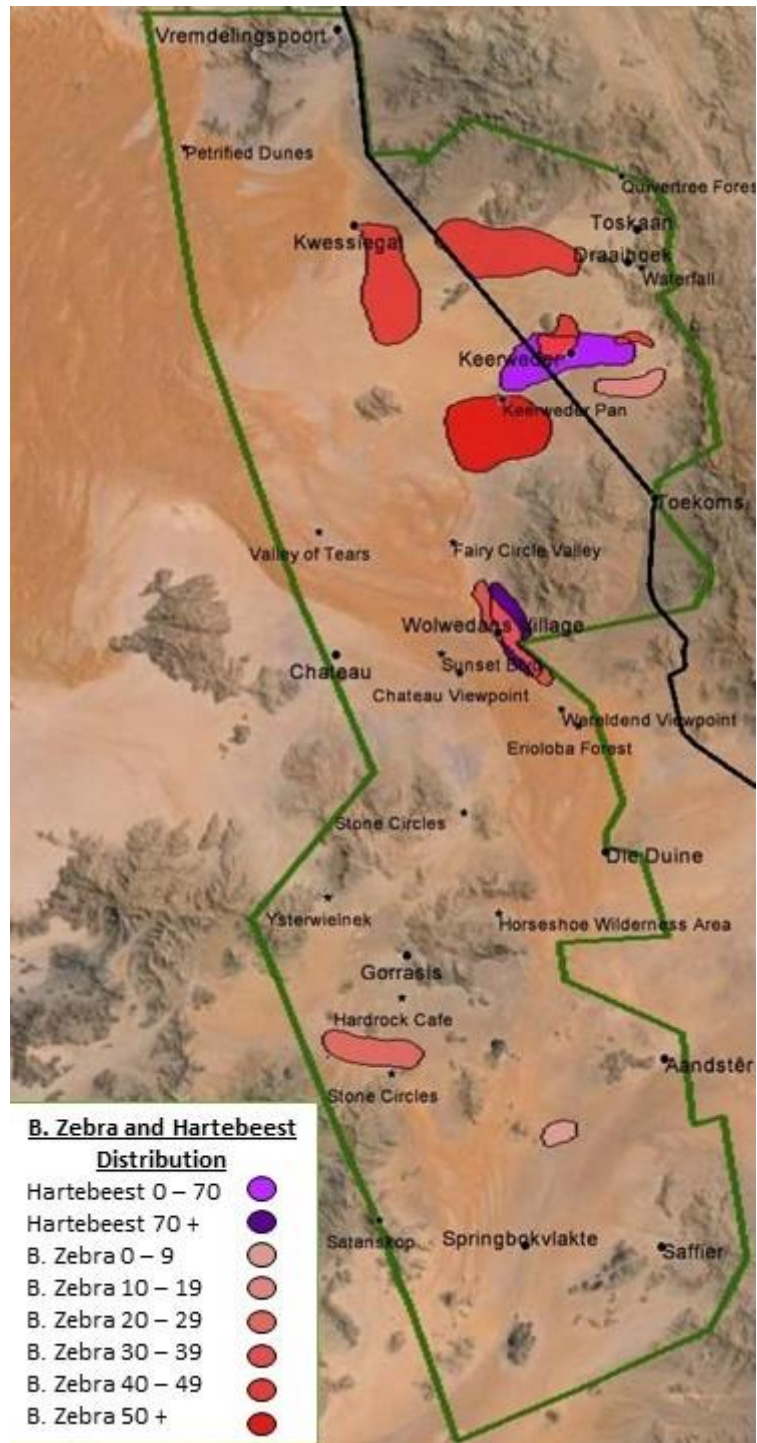
\*Juveniles born this year

\*\*Animals counted in the south of the Reserve, during the game count held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2014.



# Distribution

The map below shows the distribution of the B. Zebra and Hartebeest on the Reserve as recorded in May and June 2014.



## **Discussion**

The results of this count does not give the exact total of the particular species on the Reserve, but does give a close estimate and minimum number of the individuals, as some individuals may have been out of sight and therefore not counted.

After I added up the numbers of the Hartebeest counted, I found that we were short at least 50 Hartebeest, judging from the number counted in September 2013 (204 individuals). The counters of route 2 who counted the big herd of Hartebeest that were and are still residing in the Wolwedans Private Camp area noted that they could not get a very accurate count of the herd as the animals were closely bunched together. The following afternoon, I went out to the same area and recounted the herd. I counted 135 individuals in the herd which amounts to about the same number that the Wolwedans staff have been counting. So we can safely say that the total number of Hartebeest is in fact at least 205 (70 counted elsewhere during the official count on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June plus 135).

After the Reintroduction of a herd of 14 Burchell's Zebra on Springbokvlakte in 2012, more Burchell's Zebra have wandered south and have stayed in the south of the Reserve, as is evident in the sighting reports received over the last 12 months. To date, 28 Burchell's Zebra have been counted in the south, which included the 14 that were relocated to the south in 2012. This plus the 339 counted in the three routes brings the number of B. Zebra to 367 which seems on par with the previous count (September 2013) which was 320 excluding the individuals in the south of the Reserve as the results of that count only focused on the individuals seen in the north of the Reserve.

The patchy and much localised rainfall of the past season has also contributed to the two species' confined range in the north, i.e., no B. Zebra or Hartebeest we counted north of Kwessiegat where rainfall was considerably less. Also, the big herd of Hartebeest and a number of B. Zebra herds have been "stationed" around the Wolwedans Village/Private Camp area for the last 4 months because of the relatively higher rainfall received in the area.

The low numbers of Hartebeest juveniles is testament to the extremely low rainfall received in 2013 as the Hartebeest females which have a gestation period of 8 months and usually give birth shortly before or during the rainfall season would have opted not to copulate after the almost non-existent previous rainfall season as the veld conditions would not have been favourable for gestation and raising young. In this way the rainfall of any given year usually effects the growth of a population in the following year, as is the case with many other antelopes in the Namib and elsewhere.

Other interesting sightings during the count included a Aardwolf near Bushman Koppies; a few bat eared foxes, a Cape cobra between Jagkop and Wolwedans, big herd (200+) of Oryx and Springbok east of Keerweder and Hotspur (Mountain Zebra roaming with Burchell's Zebra herd) on Kwessiegat.